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25X1

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Copy 6 of 11

10 August 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Critique for OXCART Mission Number BX6709

REF
PH
12
DS
AF
NM
11

1. Subject mission critique was conducted in the OSA Control Center commencing at 1430 hours, 25 July 1967. Appropriate OSA, OSI and OEL personnel participated.

2. Mission Data:

- a. Mission Number: BX6709
- b. Date Flown: 19 July 1967
- c. Area of Operation: North Vietnam
- d. Mission Success: Successful
- e. Pilot's Name: [REDACTED]
- f. Aircraft Number: 131
- g. Primary or Spare Flown: Primary
- h. Takeoff Time: Planned: 19/0200Z
Actual: 19/0256Z
- i. Landing Time: Planned: 19/0704Z
Actual: 19/0754Z
- j. Time Enroute: Planned: 5:04
Actual: 4:58
- k. Departure Base: Kadena
- l. Landing Base: Kadena
- m. Equipment: [REDACTED]

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3. Operations: Due to loss of 28V ground power at H-2, which required run-up to be re-started, A-12 takeoff was delayed and second window timing was used.

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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a. Route (INS plot vs. planned). All flight lines were flown within INS spec error. An overshoot of approximately 9 NM occurred on turn after first flight line, undershoot of approximately 4 NM occurred on turn after second flight line.

(1) INS Terminal Error: 11.0 NM

(2) INS Spec Error: 13.8 NM

b. Mission Generation & Operational Support: Satisfactory.

4. Weather:

a. Forecast vs. Actual: As briefed, Category II on all photographic flight lines.

b. Weather Scout Reporting: Satisfactory.

5. Intelligence:

a. Target Coverage:

(1) 14 of 16 programmed targets were covered.

(2) 21 of 48 North Vietnam COMOR targets were covered.

(3) 5 of 9 priority SSM targets in North Vietnam were covered.

(4) 166 SAM sites were identified (12 sites were occupied and 4 new sites identified).

b. Quality of Take:

(1) Resolution: One to one and one-half feet at NADIR throughout the mission.

(2) Camera Operation: Satisfactory, imagery was reported as excellent by NPIC.

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d. Significant Findings:

(1) With only 12 of 166 SAM sites occupied, there is some doubt that there are 25-30 firing battallions as estimated.

(2) Figure eight, driver training course, similar to those seen in China, noted for the first time in North Vietnam situated near Lao Cai.

e. Take Movement:

(1) Camera: Satisfactory.

f.

6. Materiel:

a. Aircraft General:

(1) Fuel did not transfer properly during flight due to number six fuel pump failure.

(2) Manual disconnect was required on third air refueling due to defective holding coil.

(3) Malfunctions which occurred during flight did not limit mission performance.

b. Aircraft Systems: All systems performed satisfactorily.

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c. AGE: INS rectifier test cart had intermittent power loss due to open circuit in "C" pin in "cart to aircraft plug." Loss of power at H-2 required INS run-up to be re-started, delaying takeoff.

7. Communications:

a. Message Traffic: Satisfactory.

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[Redacted]

8. Significant Actions Taken: None required.

9. Outstanding Actions Required:

a. Ascertain if mission was hand flown (OXC/Ops).

b. Determine correlation between camera used and quality of take (R&D)

c. Request future "Operational Sortie Reports" submitted by [Redacted] include time or points along route during which autopilot operated in other than auto/auto.

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Note: Subsequent report [Redacted] confirmed aircraft was operated in auto/auto throughout mission except manual pitch used due Mach hold oscillation.

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[Redacted]
WILLIAM E. SHELTON
Colonel, USAF
Deputy for Operations, OSA

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OXC/O/OSA

Distribution:

- #1 - D/SA
- #2 - D/O/OSA
- #3 - D/M/OSA
- #4 - D/R&D/OSA
- #5 - OXC/O/OSA
- #6 - Intel/O/OSA
- #7 - Wea/O/OSA
- #8 - Commo/O/OSA
- #9 - ADP/O/OSA
- #10 - RB/OSA
- #11 - Chrono

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